

From: Susan Mazurski May 25, 2010 9:25:27 AM
Subject: Public Safety Sub-Committee Minutes 03/18/2010 APPROVED
To: SimsburyCT_SafetyMin
Cc:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE
March 18, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Public Safety Sub-Committee for March 18, 2010, was called to order at 7:05 a.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. The following members of the sub-committee were present: Peter Ingvertsen, Mike Delehanty, Mickey Lecours-Beck, Lucy Bowman, John Hampton (Chairman), Chief Baldis, and Burke LeClair. Other interested parties were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Review, discuss and possibly approve minutes from Special Meeting on January 29, 2010

Several edits were made to the minutes.

Ms. Lecours-Beck made a motion to approve the January 29, 2010 minutes as amended. Ms. Bowman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

UPDATES AND REPORTS

Ambulance

Mr. Delehanty stated that they have recently finished the last EMT class ending with practical exams. He stated that Simsbury held a joint practical class with Granby; the State does not do this anymore. He stated that this class graduated approximately 18 people from this course.

Regarding the UCONN contract, Mr. Delehanty stated that they have a contract in place with AMR to provide back-up service. The contract with AMR is indefinite. He stated that UCONN has also agreed to continue to help if needed.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that UCONN is back supplying service to Avon, Canton and Farmington, but not for Simsbury.

Civil Preparedness

Mr. Giddings stated that the full scale exercise will be held on Saturday, May 8th. This is a training exercise only. There will be information to follow next month to make sure everyone is aware of what to expect and aware of the scope of the exercise. He stated that this is a fire, ambulance and police exercise with administrative on the Town end. For most other Town agencies, it will be a tabletop exercise. Chief Baldis stated that Mr. Kowalski is currently getting funding for this exercise.

Mr. Giddings stated that although roads were closed because of flooding last week, everything went well.

Fire

Chief Baldis stated that his department did monitor the Farmington River over this past weekend, although it was not as bad as first thought. He stated that communication efforts also went well.

Chief Baldis stated that the Fire Department continues to work closely with emergency planners regarding the disaster drill. They have been planning and training membership in order to get ready. He stated that they also have people in their department who have been in, retired or still active in the Bradley Fire Department service. They use this resource effectively in their department for training as well. They will be taking advantage of this for this drill.

Chief Baldis stated that construction of the main station is moving along well. They are on target for occupancy this summer, which is ahead of schedule. They have also stayed within budget.

Chief Baldis stated that they are starting to focus on brush fires. This is the season where things are getting dry. There is a no open burning policy in Simsbury which is enforced.

Mr. Delehanty questioned when the main station would again be used for fuel. Chief Baldis stated that it may be open for fuel prior to the

station being ready for occupancy, although not long before. Because of the extensive activity in terms of construction at the main station, there are too many contractors in the area. He stated that he appreciates the Town's patience regarding this.

Farmington Valley Health District

There was no report.

Police

Chief Ingvertsen stated that they have been working on the technology program for approximately 8 years. They have now finished the final phase as of yesterday. This allows officers in cars to type their reports and download them at headquarters. This was a long process with many hurdles to overcome with the State. He stated that Rick Bazzano was also very helpful with this.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that they are working on traffic counting at the middle school. The most pressing issue at the moment is the parking at Central School. He has been working on this issue with a group of concerned businesses as well as parents and residents. He met with everyone yesterday; they came up with several solutions. The issue is that there are more cars and not enough spaces at the school, which causes safety concerns with kids walking around parked cars in the street. Some of the solutions that they have come up with include: Paines changing their trash pickup so it does not correspond with the busses and parents dropping off their children; and changing of plowing route times for this area. There is construction work up in that area as well, which they need to make sure that it is not done when school is opening or closing.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that Mr. Toner and Mr. Roy, as well as the School Department are looking to use the Memorial parking area, which will begin in April. Teachers can park here to free up spaces at the school. He stated that the school has been very cooperative.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that he walked around the school yesterday. Some areas can be re-engineered to allow more cars to park. There are several different areas where they may be able to get in additional spaces. The front of school could possibly gain 5 spots by repaving another area. With all this said, they need to make sure that emergency vehicles can still get through. He stated that there is also enough room on the street to push gravel on the right side to get cars off of the road, which they will also be looking into. This is an ongoing project. He stated that a long term solutions may be to have Memorial Park paved, although this is very expensive.

Ms. Lacko stated that she is a resident who has children in this school. She has been very impressed how people came together in order to find solutions. She is excited to see the short term and long term solutions moving forward.

Chairman Hampton stated that Chief Ingvertsen and he will be attending a meeting in Tariffville. They will be working with Tariffville to start discussion regarding Route 315 being rerouted from Elm Street to Wolcott Road because of increased traffic on Elm Street that has become a safety issue. A representative from DOT will also be attending this meeting.

Social Services

Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that the fuel system program is coming to a close. They have had approximately 300 families that were eligible for the program this year; there was a great need in the community. She stated that funding was cut; they do not have much funding to work with. They are referring people who have exhausted their State funds back to Simsbury for help. Thankfully, because of the generosity of the people in Simsbury, they continue to help people in need.

Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that they are finding a trend regarding hoarding in the community. They have had two cases of hoarding in the last week. She is worried that elderly people cannot get out of their houses in the event of a fire because of the clutter. She stated that the Building Department cannot get into these houses if the people will not let them in because of the legal issues regarding egress. She stated that this is a dangerous situation.

Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that they have received \$5,000 in \$20 gift cards to Andy's and Fitzgeralds from St. Catherine's. These gift cards went out to people in the Fuel Assistance Program. She stated that other issues have been brought to light because of the distribution of these cards. For example, there was one issue with a resident who received a card who could not use it because she uses a walker and cannot get around Andy's; they do not have an electric cart.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that Social Services offers many programs for the youths in Town which are supported through the school system and the Police Department. Social Services is trying to help the kids maintain good morals and values.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. LeClair stated that the Safe Routes to School concept is a Department of Transportation program, which Simsbury applied for and received some in-

kind help from a planning firm in Hartford. He stated that they had their first meeting at Henry James School, where they planned a concept of a walk audit. This firm will observe the various walking routes of the middle school. The end process will be that they will make recommendations in order to make these routes safer and to try to maximize the number of kids who walk to school. Mr. LeClair stated that they were able to get traffic counts for Firetown Road area as well as how many people are dropping off. He stated that he is looking forward to seeing the results and making the necessary changes.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that he received an email from a parent at Squadron Line School who was concerned that the horseshoe in front of the school was being blocked. He also stated his concerned that emergency vehicles may not be able to get in. Mr. LeClair stated that he would follow up with the principal and get back to Chief Ingvertsen.

Chairman Hampton stated that the Second Annual Kayak Race will be held on the weekend of April 10th. He stated that this was a fairly smooth event last year.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that April 10th is also Clean Up Simsbury Day.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Baldis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 a.m. Ms. Bowman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

John K. Hampton, Chairman